22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



211 361 363 493 There are no roads even in the little settlement itself, and, from the irregular distribution of the houses, and the equally irregular ground on which they are built, the traveller has to pick his way from one to another as best he can. It is needless to state that wheeled vehicles are, in consequence, unknown. The church, an uninteresting-looking building, painted white, is practically the only public edifice.[1] Near it, and at the bottom of Mr. Lugobil's garden, stands the little monument erected to the memory of Bering. It is an iron column of no great size or taste, which was sent hither years ago from St. Petersburg, and, half buried in the lush grass which at this season of the year grows so freely in Kamschatka, it looked melancholy enough. It is a cenotaph, for the bones of the celebrated navigator rest far away upon the island that bears his name. A monument to Captain Clerke, the successor of Captain Cook, is, I believe not far from it, but we did not see it. The town is, indeed, somewhat rich in these objects of melancholy interest, for in a gap in the western promontory, once the site of an old battery, the dilapidated remains of a memorial column to De la Perouse is still to be seen; while on the sand-spit at the entrance of the harbour, an erection less pleasing to the eye of an Englishman is conspicuous, commemorating the success of the Russians against the forces of the Allied Fleet in 1854.

I must confess that, previous to our visit to Kamschatka, I had been in entire ignorance of the affair that resulted in such disaster to our forces. But little known or commented on at the time, it has probably long ago passed out of the memory of most of those of the past generation; while, owing to the success with which the matter was hushed up, it had but little chance of becoming known 175 to the present. In the action of the 24th August, 1854, we suffered a defeat as humiliating as it was ridiculous, and one for which, from the circumstance of our attack having been made on a

[1] At the time of Lessep's visit, in 1787, there was no church in the settlement, but he alludes to the former existence of one, and mentions that its situation was known "by means of a sort of tomb which formed a part of it."

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